

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00203 121732Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAB-02
/069 W

-----130057 121748Z /44

P R 121606Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5233

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0203

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 121605Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION USINFO
WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--TREATY-RELATED REACTION JANUARY 12 LIMITED TO TWO
OPINION COLUMNS. MODERATE HARMODIO ICAZA IN HIS MOYOLANDIA COLUMN
IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO IS CRITICAL OF SENATOR GOLDWATER'S
DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE APPEAL FOR PATIENCE ON THE PART OF
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PANAMANIAN. SAYS ICAZA: "WE HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR 14 YEARS
AND FIGHTING TO RESCUE OUR LAND FOR 74 YEARS, BUT IN SPITE OF THIS
SENATOR GOLDWATER WANTS US TO BE PATIENT AND WAIT ONE OR TWO YEARS
MORE WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEE OF RATIFICATION... AND IF THE AMERICANS
TAKE THEIR TREATIES SO SERIOUSLY, HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE
INNUMERABLE VIOLATIONS OF THE 1903 TREATY? ...AFTER VISITING PANAMA
FOR THE EXPRESS REASON OF GAINING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE

PROBLEM, HE IS STILL JUST AS LOST IN THE FOG..."

2-CAMILO PEREZ IN HIS BONA FIDE COLUMN IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
CRITICA SEES CONSPIRACY OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS SQUEEZING PANAMA
TOWARD SUBMISSION ON THE TREATY ISSUE. SAYS PEREZ: "WE
UNDERSTAND THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE U.S. FINANCIAL CENTER,
UNDER THE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO
PANAMA... ARE INTENDED TO REDUCE THE PORTFOLIO OF ALL THE AMERICAN
BANKS THAT OPERATE HERE... THIS IS A POLICY DIRECTED BY POLITICAL
EXPERTS WHO ARE BY NO MEANS BEGINNERS... WHAT MEASURES CAN OUR
GOVERNMENT TAKE IN THE MATTER? EXPECT ANY KIND OF RESULT
FROM THE SENATE. BE PREPARED TO FACE THE RESULTS, WITHOUT BEING
SO OPTIMISTIC AND LETTING IT BE CLEAR THAT WE ARE READY FOR A
LONG AND TEDIOUS STRUGGLE..." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 121605Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE
WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTI
TAGS: SOPN, PN
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